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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 000708

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PBTS](#) [MASS](#) [PTER](#) [KPAL](#) [KU](#) [IR](#) [IZ](#)  
SUBJECT: MFA U/S REVIEW IRAQ, MEPP AND GTMO IN ADVANCE OF  
AMIR'S AUG 3 VISIT

REF: A. BAGHDAD 1869  
[B](#). STATE 71885  
[C](#). STATE 71850

Classified By: Political Counselor Pete O'Donohue for reasons 1.4 b and  
d

1.(C) Summary: Kuwaiti MFA U/S Khaled al-Jarallah conveyed to Ambassador July 14 GOK support for "the serious" U.S. efforts to achieve Israeli-Palestinian peace and said the Amir was studying the President's letter. Jarallah said the recent visit to Kuwait by Iraqi parliamentary speaker Ayad al-Samarrai had helped to ease the harsh rhetoric of late between the two countries but noted the Amir would almost certainly raise Kuwaiti concern over Iraqi footdragging on boundary demarcation as stipulated under 833. ON GTMO, Jarallah offered assurances the GOK would prevent the issuance of passports to any returning detainees following their rehabilitation period and would actively monitor their activities. Jarallah said Kuwaiti recognition of Kosovo was simply 'a matter of time' following recognition by the Saudis, UAE, Bahrain and Jordan (Ref B). While non-committal, he responded positively to a request that Kuwait fund the refurbishment and transfer of 55 M60A3 tanks from Jordan to the Lebanese Armed Forces at a cost of USD 98 million (Ref C). Jarallah added the Amir was looking forward to having a full and productive exchange with President Obama and to building the close relationship he had enjoyed with previous Presidents. End Summary.

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MEPP  
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2.(C) Ensuring that the Amir had received the President's message on the Arab-Israeli peace process, Ambassador emphasized to the U/S the President's serious commitment to create an environment conducive to progress, which included a settlement freeze on the Israeli side, security improvements on the Palestinian side, and supportive, confidence building measures from other Arab states; this will be a priority issue during the Amir's planned August 3 meeting with the President. Jarallah applauded the President's clear commitment to the peace process, but expressed concern that Israeli actions would continue to hinder any progress. Ambassador responded that success will be contingent upon all sides actively working towards a common goal; both the President and the Secretary have demonstrated their clear commitment to the two state solution and needed the support of our partners.

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Iraq and Kuwait  
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3.(C) Jarallah noted that the Amir would also raise Kuwaiti concern over Iraq's ongoing reluctance to take concrete steps

to demonstrate its unequivocal acceptance of a UN-designated permanent land border between the two countries. Once that happens, he suggested the GOK would have 'no choice' but to be forward leaning on compensation and other issues. Ambassador said the U.S. was following a UN lead in this matter but assured Jarallah the U.S. was not backsliding on Kuwait's land border; the fundamental goal was to achieve progress both on compliance with UNSCR 833 while helping Iraq stabilize its economic and security situation so that it functions as a good neighbor. Jarallah agreed that the recent visit by Iraqi Parliamentary Speaker Ayad al-Samarrai had poured oil on the roiling rhetoric of late but noted that even Samarrai had been dismissive of Kuwaiti border concerns when speaking with the Prime Minister, Shaykh Nasser Mohammed al-Sabah, who'd sharply corrected him, reminding that this was a priority for the GOK. (Note: In sharp contrast to the "positive" tone expressed by Iraqi FonMin Zebari in Ref A, the GOK does not view as 'insignificant' the presence of Iraqi farmers on Kuwait's side of the boundary demarcation; Zebari's characterization as a "positive" development the UN's having 'dropped its insistence' that Iraq build a road alongside the land border for the purpose of maintaining the demarcation markers does not jibe with Kuwait's position that such maintenance is the quid pro quo for softening the terms of other Iraqi financial obligations under Chapter VII. The PM, Shaykh Nasser Mohammed, recently suggested to the British Ambassador here (please protect) that Kuwait feared the U.S. could not be relied upon to protect Kuwaiti interests in this regard. End Note.)

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GTMO Detainees

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4.(C) Acknowledging recent press reports on Kuwait's four remaining GTMO detainees, to include the FonMin's remarks that the Amir would seek their release, Ambassador queried Jarallah about GOK capacity to adequately detain and monitor GTMO detainees should they be returned to Kuwait. Jarallah asserted that Kuwait will exercise its legal authority to withhold passports from returned detainees and will enforce stringent monitoring measures following their rehabilitation period. Ambassador noted that a team of U.S. officials plans to visit Kuwait's Rehabilitation Facility in late July and would be particularly interested in assessing the GOK's ability to mitigate their return to extremist activities, as had occurred with al-Ajmi. (Note: the former GTMO detainee who strong evidence suggests self-detonated in Mosul after being granted a new passport by the GOK. End Note.) Jarallah acknowledged that some in the GOK had made 'a huge mistake' in issuing al-Ajmi a travel document but insisted it was within the purview of the Minister of Interior to prevent passport issuances to former GTMO detainees.

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Kosovo and LAF  
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5.(C) Ambassador raised the issue of Kosovo recognition (Ref B), emphasizing that the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan have gone forward on this, and encouraged the GOK to follow suit, noting that Kosovo's independence is irreversible, no matter the outcome of ICJ deliberations. Jarallah responded positively, stating that Kuwaiti recognition will simply be "a matter of time" now that other GCC countries had done so. (Note: Jarallah's positive tone is in contrast to the more constrained response repeatedly offered by FonMin Dr. Mohammed on this subject. Ambassador will follow up with the FonMin following his return from Sharm el-Sheikh. End Note.)

6.(C) Ambassador also raised with Jarallah SecDef Gates' March 2 letter to the MinDef (Ref C) seeking Kuwaiti funding for the purchase, upgrade, and transport of Jordanian M60A3s

to the LAF. Jarallah again responded positively, stating that he will raise the matter with the leadership and that he believed support would be forthcoming, especially given Kuwait's heavy investment in Lebanon. (Note: Post has no record of having received the original SECDEF letter for delivery. End Note.)

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Iran  
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7.(C) Finally, the Ambassador noted that the President would be interested in hearing the Amir's honest assessment of the situation in Iran and how we could work together to ensure stability while addressing the problem of Iran's unsupervised nuclear program; the President's 'open hand' was only part of the equation and should not be mistaken as capitulation or weakness on the part of the U.S. leadership. Jarallah responded that the Amir's upcoming meeting with the President would provide an opportunity for a frank and positive exchange on this and other issues, as had been the case with his meetings with other U.S. Presidents.

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